

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 14 March 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
14 MARCH 1967

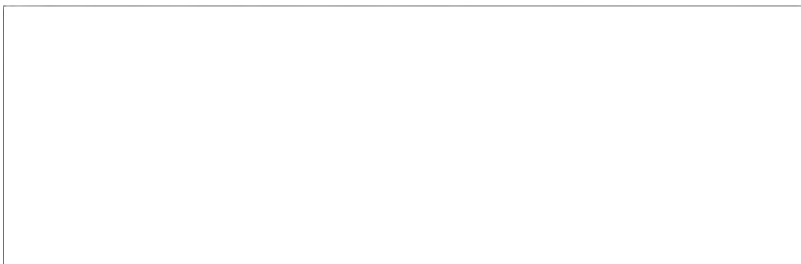
1. South Vietnam

Representatives of the Directorate are scheduled to meet today with the Constituent Assembly to iron out remaining areas of controversy in the draft constitution.

The meeting could be crucial in the development of the constitution, since some members of the Directorate--both military and civilian--are said to be dissatisfied with several key articles. Should the assembly be hard-nosed about the Directorate's "recommendations," the Directorate might decide to invoke its power of revision over the draft constitution.

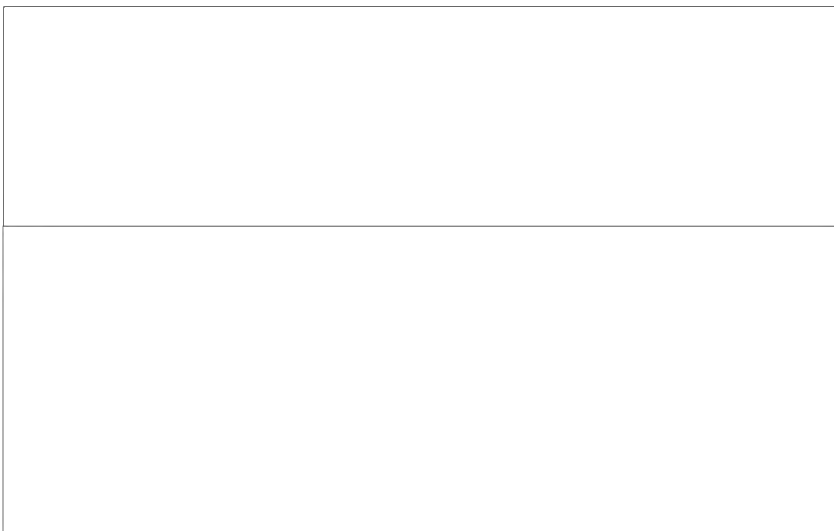
Similar conferences in the past, however, have produced enough compromise to prevent an open break between the two bodies.

2. Soviet Union



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3. Soviet Union



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4. France

All the statistics on the second round of the French election are not yet in, but one thing is clear: the Communists showed well in an electoral system rigged against them. After holding on to their hard-core support in the first round, they picked up additional strength in the second. At this reading we can only guess that the party's relatively moderate tone during the campaign convinced a sizable number of Frenchmen to do something they had never done before--vote the party, at least as a second choice.

De Gaulle, however, deserves some of the credit here. His policy of rapprochement with the Russians helped to make the party more palatable.

The Communists' attitude toward Mendes-France will probably be a clue to the policy they will adopt in the new assembly. The Communists made his election possible by withdrawing their candidate in the run-off. If they now support Mendes-France rather than Mitterrand, the Gaullists will face a considerably more formidable opposition.

5. Brazil

Federal police expect strikes and student demonstrations today and also tomorrow--inauguration day for Costa e Silva. In addition, military units are on alert for disturbances by some of Brazil's many dissident extremist groups. Warnings of action against US personnel and installations have also been received.

6. Peru

President Belaunde now feels he will be able to attend the inter-American summit. However, this decision will have to be confidential until Belaunde gets permission from the Peruvian Congress--currently in adjournment--to leave the country.

7. Cuba



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